

CHICOREUS (NAQUETIA) TRIQUITER VOKESAE SUBS. NOV., A NEW NAME FOR A MISIDENTIFIED SPECIES GASTROPODA : MURICIDAE).

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Keywords: Gastropoda, Muricidae, Taxonomy.

RESUME:

L'espèce trouvée dans le Nord-Ouest de l'Océan Indien et généralement identifiée comme *Chicoreus (Naquetia) triquiter* (Born, 1778) est nommée ici comme sous-espèce nouvelle, sur base de différences conchyliologiques, surtout de la coquille larvaire.

INTRODUCTION:

The subgenus *Naquetia* was recently studied by the author (Houart, 1985). Further comparative study of the protoconchs lead to the discovery of an unidentified subspecies, occurring in the Western Indian Ocean, which is here named.

Chicoreus (Naquetia) triquiter vokesae subs.nov.Figs. 1-2.

DESCRIPTION:

Shell medium-sized for the subgenus, to 70 mm. Elongate and fusiform. Aperture roundly ovate. Columellar lip adherent, briefly detached anteriorly, smooth. Anal notch small and shallow. Outer apertural lip slightly denticulate, briefly str ate interiorly. Spire high, consisting of two rounded, smooth nuclear whorls and nine elongate post-nuclear whorls. Suture impressed. Body whorl bearing three low rounded varices. Terminal varix ventrally squamous, anteriorly ornamented with a varical flange extending on the siphonal canal. Other axial sculpture consisting of three to five low ridges crossed by twelve to fifteen spiral cords, each flanked by fine spiral threads. Varices of spire whorls sometimes bearing small carinal open spines. Siphonal canal short and broad, narrowly open and slightly bent backwards. Color cream to light brown with darker spiral bands. Axial ribs also darker colored. Aperture white.

MATERIAL STUDIED.

Holotype n° H213, Natal Museum; 1 paratype Natal Museum n° F6528, Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° H213, South East Nacala Bay, Mozambique. 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° H1391, S.Shore, Mozambique; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° H1392, North-East Mozambique; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° H1393, S.W. Lunga, Mozambique; 1 paratype Natal. Mus. n° H1394, S.E. Memba Bay, Mozambique; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° H1396, S.W. Lunga Bay, Mozambique; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° H1397, S.E.Shore, Mozambique; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° H1399, Nacala Bay, Mozambique; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° H1401, S.E. Lunga Bay, Mozambique; 6 paratypes Natal Mus. n° H1404, Conducia Bay, Mozambique; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° H7298, Nossi-Bé, Madagascar; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° J5426, Porto Amelia, Mozambique; 1 paratype Natal Mus. n° J9879, Zanzibar; 2 paratypes Natal Mus. n° J9880, Tanzania; 1 paratype n° 27035, Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Mozambique; 5 paratypes Natal. Mus. n° H5575, Conducia Bay, Mozambique; 1 paratype I.R.S.N.B. n° 27035, North Reef, Dar-Es-Salaam,

Tanzania; 1 paratype Musée d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris, S.W. Conducia Bay, Mozambique; 1 paratype R. Houart coll., North Conducia Bay, Mozambique.

TYPE LOCALITY.

Nothern Moçambique, South East Nacala Bay, dredged from gravelly bottom with sparse *Cynodocea*, 9 meters.

DISCUSSION.

In a recent monograph of this subgenus (Houart, 1985) I showed the differences between various species, but like every one else, I made no distinction between the typical *N. triquiter* and this form from the Western Indian. Dr Vokes (in litt.) drew my attention to the different protoconchs (one illustrated in my article, the other from a specimen in her collection, now paratype I.R.S.N.B.). Differences between both forms are minimal but the observation of very different nuclear whorls (see figs. 2B-3B) makes it evident that the Indian form constitutes a distinct subspecies. I prefer to treat it as a subspecies rather than a species, as the differences are minimal, except on larval whorls.

In addition to the protoconch (paucispiral for *N. triquiter vokesae*; conical, multi-spiral with a fine carina for *N. triquiter*), the new subspecies has a more convex outline; its axial sculpture is shallower and consists of more numerous and lower cords on the spire whorls. Spiral sculpture is weaker.

The specimen illustrated by Vokes (1978: pl. 5, fig. 4) is *Naquetia triquiter vokesae* (and not *N. triquiter*). It is here designated as the holotype.

No other species may be compared. *Triplex flexuosa* Perry, 1811 (type locality: "New Zealand" is *N. triquiter*; Vokes (1974: fig. 2) illustrated a hypotype from Papua New Guinea. The type locality for *T. flexuosa* is obviously erroneous.

Murex roseotinctus Sowerby, 1860, from the Philippines, is a juvenile of *N. triquiter*. It is a pleasure for me to name this shell for Dr. Emily H. Vokes, who first noticed the differences in the nuclear whorls.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

All my gratitude goes to Dr. Emily H. Vokes (Tulane University) who drew my attention on the different protoconchs of both forms and who, as always, was very helpful in reading my manuscript. Thanks also to Dr. Kilburn (Natal Museum) for sending type material for study and to Ms. K. Way (BMNH) for the loan of the type of *Murex roseotinctus* Sowerby, 1860.

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